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here



Rep. Jaime Herrera
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

HEARING FROM YOU

I very much appreciate the opportunity to represent you in Olympia. If you are interested, please tell me what issues are most important to you. I can then contact you when questions come up in your issue area.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

18TH DISTRICT SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Would you like to be contacted to serve on an 18th District Seniors' Advisory Committee?

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe later

E-NEWSLETTER

☐ Yes, please keep me updated on issues important to Southwest Washington.

Survey

- _____ Economic growth
_____ Environment
_____ Education
_____ Agriculture
_____ Crime/drugs
_____ Property rights
_____ Health care
_____ Social values
_____ Tax relief
_____ Transportation
_____ Smaller, efficient state government
_____ State spending reform
_____ Other _____

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P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

2008 Legislative Session Review

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAIME HERRERA 18TH DISTRICT

2008 Legislative Session Review

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After being appointed by a bipartisan group of county commissioners from Cowlitz and Clark counties in December, I just completed my first legislative session as your new state representative. This newsletter is to share with you what I learned from the experience.

There is good news and bad news. First, here is the good news. I learned that working with Republicans and Democrats, together, it is possible to pass legislation that is helpful to people in our community.

For example, I sponsored a bill that became law that will give tax relief to deployed Reserve and National Guard personnel who run their own businesses. The idea for this bill came from families of our state whose loved ones are serving overseas during this time of war.

I also listened to law enforcement officials and families impacted by crime, and worked with a bipartisan group of state lawmakers to respond to public safety issues facing our neighborhoods.

While I learned it is possible to make a difference, the bad news is that for many important issues our state government is on the wrong track. Issues like real property tax relief and out-of-control state spending have not been addressed. It is going to take a lot of effort for true change in Olympia.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the Legislature. I have learned a lot – by listening. I want to continue to listen to you and other people in our area.

Please contact me if I can ever be of assistance, or if you just want to share your views.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera
State Representative

KEEP IN TOUCH

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PLEASE JOIN ME
IN AN UPCOMING
COMMUNITY
FORUM – FROM
YOUR HOME

I am holding a community forum – on the telephone. This allows you an opportunity to dial-in and participate from the comfort of your own living room. Here are the details:

Tuesday, May 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Steps:

1. Dial 1-866-447-5149
2. Enter Pin Number 13470
3. Listen-in and participate

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAIME HERRERA

STRENGTHENING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I grew up in Clark County and was home-schooled from the 1st through 9th grades. I went on to Prairie High School and later graduated from the University of Washington. I am fortunate to have benefitted from our strong public schools and educational options.

Every child should have these opportunities so they can compete in an increasingly global marketplace. Too many children in our public schools today are not being adequately prepared for what awaits them. This problem is especially clear in math and science.



Revising the state math curriculum

We must have strong academic standards and effectively measure student performance. If we are going to expect a lot from our students, they deserve the same in return.

There is a lot more to do, but two positive steps were taken this year to address problems with the state's math curriculum and the math section of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). I supported measures that:

- Return responsibility for adoption of quality state math standards to the State Board of Education rather than the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction – **Senate Bill 6534**
- Implement high school end-of-course exams to accurately measure math achievement – **House Bill 3166**

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

An important priority for me in representing our communities is public safety.

We strengthened laws this year regarding sex offenders, identity theft, those who elude law enforcement, and gangs. This is particularly important because we have seen an increase in gang-related activity in Clark and Cowlitz counties. Here are some bills I supported this year:



- Expanding the statewide sex offender and felon DNA database - **House Bill 2713**
- Helping victims of identity theft recover - **House Bill 2637**
- Increasing sentencing for someone who endangers the public while eluding law enforcement - **House Bill 1030**
- Providing a statewide definition of a gang, gang member and gang crime, and creating a statewide gang database - **House Bill 2712**

Rep. Herrera discusses health care on the House floor.



2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

STATE SPENDING FACTS

The people who have been running things in Olympia have increased spending by 33 percent in just the last four years. That is a rate of spending growth that is twice the rate of revenue growth! Could you get away with that kind of budgeting in your home or your small business? No.

The result of this spending binge is that state government will likely face a

\$2.5 billion deficit next year.

Many in Olympia are already talking about ways to raise your taxes. They are considering property tax increases or a state income tax. I am totally opposed to new taxes.

The state should hold the line on spending in a way that does not raise taxes and still pays for vital services like education and public safety. Higher taxes are a bad idea.



HELPING MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING IN ACTIVE COMBAT AREAS



I introduced a measure that will relieve military personnel serving in active combat areas of interest and penalties on their late excise tax payments. My legislation, **House Bill 3283**, received bipartisan support and was signed into law March 27.

Under current law, the state waives interest and penalties on late property tax for military personnel stationed in active combat areas. My bill extends the same protections for the excise tax, and gives these brave soldiers who are called into active duty combat one less thing to worry about.

I want to thank the people who shared their personal stories, including Lt. Col. John Perry from Battle Ground who joined me in testifying for the bill.



A BAD IDEA STOPPED

Many of you contacted me about **Senate Bill 6900**. This would have established a new, expensive carbon tax based on the size of a vehicle's engine and how many grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) it emits per mile.

This measure would have been a massive tax increase on working families simply for owning a motor vehicle. I will continue to stand against such burdensome proposals.

